Nursery, Landscape and Floral Research

Call for 2005 Proposals

Each year, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Nursery and Florist Advisory Committee, (ISDA), in cooperation with the Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association, awards financial grants to support research that would benefit the Idaho nursery, landscape and floral industry. These grants are primarily funded by the nursery industry itself through the collection of a Nursery Research Assessment Fee collected by the ISDA from each nursery license issued.

Research proposals are now being sought for the 2005 project year. All proposals should be brief, one or two page overviews. Prior to submittal, applicants should perform a literature search to ensure that the proposal is original and/or of direct benefit to the Idaho industry. Proposal forms can be obtained from the ISDA Internet Web Site whose address is listed below:

http://www.idahoag.us/PDF/Plants/forms/frmNursery%20Research.pdf

All research proposals should be for a **one year duration only**.

A brief written **mid-year report** and a **final report** detailing the research results are required as part of the grant process. These written reports must follow specific guidelines, that are available at the above mentioned website

Funding for all approved projects is provided in the following allotments: 50% paid upon project approval and 50% paid upon receipt and approval of the Final report.

Research project proposals are reviewed, evaluated and prioritized by the members of the Idaho Nursery and Florists Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives from the nursery and floral industry, the University of Idaho, and ISDA. Final approval and grant awards are made by the committee in January of 2005.

While all submissions will be considered, a priority listing of research projects as established by the Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association Research Committee and other related organizations for 2005 are as follows:

- Using plant phenology (plant development as related to weather) for insect scouting and timing of pest control. It is necessary that we understand the importance of timeliness when applying pesticides and fungicides. For instance, which viruses and pests are not resistant to a 12 hour reentry time frame, verses a 24 to 36 hour reentry time.
- Impact of holding treatments (after digging field grown trees) on pest resistance and plant health in the landscape.
- Using mustard seed meal for weed control and tree growth.
- Using paper waste as a mulch.
- How can we encourage Idaho Horticulture Graduates to stay in Idaho?

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- Growth, photosynthesis and stress resistance of transplanted conifer trees.
- Alternative practices for aphid & honeydew management on landscape trees.
- Documenting the value of root pruning.
- Fertilizer trials on conifers as they are affected by various soils throughout Idaho.
- Wildfire landscaping: Usage of perennials and native plants to help minimize the damage of wildfires; develop landscape specifications to reduce the need for thinning to prevent wildfires.
- Landscaping with perennials beyond the concept of "xeriscaping." Plants generally used for Xeriscaping have a small or low consumer appeal but the idea of low water usage plants is especially popular with the continuing drought and low water years in the west.
- Stopping the spread of the "potato aphid" or "peach aphid." Is there a way horticulture and agriculture can work together and stop the spread of these predators? Can we find host plants that will help rid Idaho of this aphid without the use of pesticides? Ladybugs and other friendly biologicals are useful, but are only for small areas.
- Research to determine the component in plants that creates deer resistant plants (and/or rabbits, voles and mice). Determine if that element can be transferred through graft or breeding to other plants that are presently attractive to deer.
- Market Research: How do we keep Idaho green industry dollars in Idaho? Why do we buy green industry products produced out of the state? Are we losing our market share?
- Wildflowers – develop methods or species with better seed viability and easier access of plants and seeds for wholesale producers and retailers.
- Native Plants: Research and development of more varieties, ones that appeal to the consumer.
- Build, develop plants to be hardier, include all zones in Idaho, lower their plant zone physiology.
- 2004 Idaho Green Industry Economic Survey (last one done in 1999)

Submit research project proposals by December 1, 2004 to:

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